

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In the Claims: Please amend claims 24, 25 and 28 as follows; claims 1-20 are canceled and the other claims are withdrawn. The following listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1-20 (canceled)

21. (withdrawn) A monoclonal antibody reactive with a $\beta(1-3)$ – and/or a $\beta(1-3)(1-6)$ – glucan associated epitope in free form, in cell wall fragments or on an intact cell surface.

22. (withdrawn) A monoclonal antibody according to claim 21, wherein said $\beta(1-3)$ – and/or a $\beta(1-3)(1-6)$ – glucan associated epitope is available in cell wall fragments of *C. albicans* and/or *C. neoformans*, or on the cell surface of *C. albicans*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. krusei*, *C. glabrata* and/or *C. neoformans*.

23. (withdrawn) A monoclonal antibody according to claim 21, wherein said antibody is A10A.

24. (currently amended) A method for the diagnosis of a fungal infection in a patient comprising assaying mucosal secretions or urine of the patient with at least one antibody according to claim 21 reactive with a $\beta(1-3)$ glucan – and/or a $\beta(1-3)(1-6)$ – glucan epitope in free form, in cell wall fragments or on an intact cell surface and available in cell wall fragments of *C. albicans* and/or *C. neoformans*, or on the cell surface of *C. albicans*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. krusei*, *C. glabrata* and/or *C. neoformans*.

25. (currently amended) A method according to claim 24, wherein said fungal infection is caused by *Candida* vaginitis or mucocutane candidiasis.

26. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 24, wherein said diagnosis is performed on mucosal secretions or urine.

27. (withdrawn) Diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of fungal infections comprising a monoclonal antibody according to claim 21.

28. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing fungal infections in a patient comprising performing an assay for the detection of $\beta(1-3)$ glucans in a sample from the patient using a monoclonal antibody ~~according to claim 21~~, reactive with a $\beta(1-3)$ glucan – and/or a $\beta(1-3)(1-6)$ – glucan epitope in free form, in cell wall fragments or on an intact cell surface and available in cell wall fragments of *C. albicans* and/or *C. neoformans*, or on the cell surface of *C. albicans*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. krusei*, *C. glabrata* and/or *C. neoformans*, wherein the presence of the $\beta(1-3)$ glucans indicates a fungal infection in said patient.

29. (withdrawn) A monoclonal antibody according to claim 22, wherein said antibody is A10A.

30. (withdrawn) A method for the diagnosis of a fungal infection comprising assaying with at least one antibody according to claim 22.

31. (withdrawn) A method for the diagnosis of a fungal infection comprising assaying with at least one antibody according to claim 23.

32. (withdrawn) A method for the diagnosis of a fungal infection comprising assaying with at least one antibody according to claim 29.

33. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 25, wherein said diagnosis is performed on mucosal secretions or urine.

34. (withdrawn) Diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of fungal infections comprising a monoclonal antibody according to claim 22.

35. (withdrawn) Diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of fungal infections comprising a

monoclonal antibody according to claim 23.

36. (withdrawn) Diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of fungal infections comprising a monoclonal antibody according to claim 29.

37. (withdrawn) A method for diagnosing fungal infections comprising performing an assay for the detection of $\beta(1-3)$ glucans in a sample using a monoclonal antibody according to claim 22, wherein the presence of $\beta(1-3)$ glucans indicates a fungal infection in said patient.

38. (withdrawn) A method for diagnosing fungal infections comprising performing an assay for the detection of $\beta(1-3)$ glucans in a sample using a monoclonal antibody according to claim 23, wherein the presence of $\beta(1-3)$ glucans indicates a fungal infection in said patient.

39. (withdrawn) A method for diagnosing fungal infections comprising performing an assay for the detection of $\beta(1-3)$ glucans in a sample using a monoclonal antibody according to claim 29, wherein the presence of $\beta(1-3)$ glucans indicates a fungal infection in said patient.